

Eddie L. Edwards III  
*Chairman*

Jimmy E. Hull  
*Secretary*

Nicki T. Artis  
*Member*

# County of Wayne

## Board of Elections

Bridgette C. Cowan  
*Member*

Charles Wright  
*Member*

Anne C. Risku  
*Director*

### Wayne County Board of Elections Special Board Meeting March 8, 2022

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman  
Nicki T. Artis, Member  
Charles Wright, Member  
Anne C. Risku, Director

Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary  
Bridgette C. Cowan, Member  
Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

**The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. Edwards.**

- I. Approval of March 8, 2022 meeting agenda
  - Mr. Hull made a motion to approve the March 8, 2022 meeting agenda. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- II. Approval of February 15, 2022 meeting minutes
  - Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- III. Director's Update
  - Ms. Risku updated the Board on the upcoming May 17, 2022 primary election. Candidate filing has ended and all documents have been uploaded to the BOE's website. As of now all candidates are in compliance of campaign finance laws. Absentee voting will begin March 28<sup>th</sup>. As of today the BOE had only received 9 requests. It is possible the Board will be able to cancel absentee meetings but only if no ballots are returned prior to that meeting. Some processes have been delayed due to the court cases surrounding recently enacted maps.
  - Mr. Artis asked if there are any appeals pending. Mr. Neal advised that the Court accepted the General Assembly maps but redrew the US House maps. US house maps will only be in place for this election. The United States Supreme Court denied the legislature's appeal to hear the case. There are still cases related to Voter ID floating around but that those were not likely to impact this election.
  - Mr. Edwards asked where was the staff in regards to securing the Maxell Center for Early Voting. Ms. Risku stated that for the primary the Board has already approved the Mt. Olive Train Depot and the Library sites and if there is a second primary there will most likely just be one site at the Library. For November, staff has not gone back to attempt to reserve the Maxwell Center since the initial attempt at securing it for March was difficult but if the Board wishes to vote there in November, she will need to start the process now. Mr. Edwards stated that the Board only received positive feedback on that site and that he felt the Board should continue voting there. Ms. Risku stated that she

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knows the Maxwell Center's first answer will be "no" but she will attempt to compromise on a smaller space. She also reminded the Board that statute does allow them to take the building for conducting an election if need be. Mr. Artis asked Ms. Risku if it was possible to use a smaller space than last time. Ms. Risku stated that there are no COVID restrictions at this time so, yes, that is possible.

- Ms. Risku presented the Board with the prospect of purchasing new ADA compliant voting machines. The ExpressVote replaces the AutoMark which is currently in use. The AutoMark is ending its end of life. All voting sites are required to have an ADA compliant machine. The cost to replace the current machine is \$126,000 and she would like to include the purchase in the upcoming budget. Tom from PrintElect will be present at the next Board Meeting to go over the machine with the Board.
- Ms. Risku stated that her budget is due April 8<sup>th</sup> and she is about halfway finished with it. There is an excess this year but next year's will be higher than expected due to the changes in the election calendar.

#### IV. Consideration of Modification of Public Comment Section

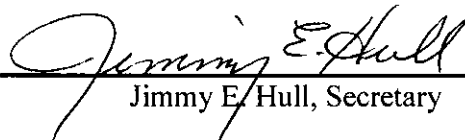
- Mr. Edwards presented the discussion of expanding the public comment time as requested by Mr. Wright at the previous meeting. Mr. Hull stated that in some instances 4 minutes won't be seen as adequate, however, the Board should enforce the rules equally. Ms. Cowan stated that she felt doubling the time was a substantial increase. Mr. Wright stated that other local boards limit public comments to 4 minutes and he felt that this Board's rules should be the same. Mr. Edwards stated he agreed with the change to 4 minutes. Mr. Wright made a motion to change the limit of public comments from 2 minutes to 4 minutes per individual. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### V. Public Comments

- No members of the public presented to speak during the public comment section

#### VI. Adjournment

- With all business having been conducted, Ms. Cowan made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Artis seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

  
Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary